

***Remarks***

Reconsideration of this Application is respectfully requested.

Upon entry of the foregoing amendment, claims 1-6 are pending in the application, with claims 1 and 2 being independent. Claims 1-3 and 5 have been amended. Applicant also submits a terminal disclaimer over U.S. Patent 6,646,509. These amendments are believed to introduce no new matter, and their entry is respectfully requested.

Based on the above amendment and the following remarks, Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner reconsider all outstanding objections and rejections and that they be withdrawn.

**Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 101**

Claims 1-6 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. Sec. 101 as claiming the same invention as that of claims 1-6 of prior U.S. Patent No. 6,646,509. Claims 1-6 have been amended to eliminate any conflicting subject matter in accordance with the Manual of Patent Examining Procedure (MPEP) Section 804(II)(A). Thus, claims 1-6 are now allowable under 35 U.S.C. Sec. 101.

***Conclusion***

All of the stated grounds of objection and rejection have been properly traversed, accommodated, or rendered moot. Applicant therefore respectfully requests that the Examiner reconsider all presently outstanding objections and rejections and that they be withdrawn. Applicant believes that a full and complete reply has been made to the outstanding Office Action and, as such, the present application is in condition for allowance. If the Examiner believes, for any reason, that personal communication will expedite prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at the number provided.

Prompt and favorable consideration of this Amendment and Reply is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

STERNE, KESSLER, GOLDSTEIN & FOX P.L.L.C.



Theodore A. Wood  
Attorney for Applicant  
Registration No. 52,374

Date: August 3, 2004

1100 New York Avenue, N.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20005-3934  
(202) 371-2600

266061\_1.DOC